

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 070730Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1703

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS OSLO 2300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NO, PFOR

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN MEDIA COMMENTS ON US SVALBARD STUDY

REF: STATE 109993

1. NORWAY'S EVENING RADIO NEWS MAY 5 AND MORNING PRESS
MAY 6 CARRIED ARTICLES DATED NEW YORK INDICATING
US HAD REACHED DECISION ON ITS SVALBARD POSITION AND
THAT WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS IT SUPPORTS NORWEGIAN
CLAIM TO THE SVALBARD CONTINENTAL SHELF. WHILE NOTING
THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT GIVE OUT ANY DETAILS OF
THE US STUDY, THE ACCOUNTS SUGGEST THAT THE US STUDY
WILL BE PUBLISHED AND WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE
SECRETARY AND NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
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DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO OSLO LATER THIS MONTH.
"AFTENPOSTEN" (CONSERVATIVE AND NORWAY'S LARGEST

NEWSPAPER) PROVIDED THE MOST DEFINITE ACCOUNT STATING:

"NORWAY HAS RECEIVED SIGNALS FROM THE US WHICH INDICATE THAT THE AMERICANS ACCEPT THAT THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF EXTENDS 200 MILES IN THE BARENTS SEA, BEYOND SVALBARD, AND THAT THE SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO LIES ON THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES. THIS MEANS THAT THE AMERICAN RESERVATION ABOUT THE NORWEGIAN BARENTS SEA SHELF IS BEING DROPPED."

2. THE NEWSPAPER, AND THE NORSK TELEGRAM BUREAU CORRESPONDENT HENRY HENRIKSEN, NOTED IN "NATIONEN" (CENTER PARTY), HOWEVER, THAT ONE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE SAID THE US OFFICIAL RESERVATION ON THE SVALBARD SHELF ISSUES STILL STANDS.

3. NORWEGIAN BROADCASTING CORRESPONDENT HARALD KJOLAAS AND THE OSLO LABOR NEWSPAPER "ARBEIDERBLADEN" INDICATED THAT WHILE US ACCEPTED NORWAY'S VIEW THAT THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF STRETCHES UP TO AND AROUND SVALBARD AND THAT THE ARCHIPELAGO HAS NO SHELF OF ITS OWN, THE US CONDITIONS MAY BE RELATED TO NORWAY'S ABILITY TO EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A SOVEREIGN POWER IN THAT AREA.

4. THE LABOR PAPER SPECULATED THAT "... THE US'S SEEMING READINESS TO SUPPORT THE NORWEGIAN POSITION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE NORTH IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON SECURITY-POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. NORWAY EMPHASIZED THAT NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SHELF ALL THE WAY UP TO SVALBARD ASSURES STABILITY AND QUIET IN THIS STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT AREA. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION NOW THAT THE US SHARES THIS VIEW."
"AFTENPOSTEN" SAID ADDITIONALLY THAT THE US DECISION WILL PROBABLY MEAN THAT SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES WILL CONCUR THAT SECURITY INTERESTS WILL BE BEST SERVED IF NORWAY HAS CONTROL OVER THE AREA.

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5. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO STATED THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THE US SVALBARD REPORT INCLUDES AN ASSESSMENT ON WHETHER AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE STARTED ON THE ARCHIPELAGO.
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